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found it quite enough to write down without ornament the bare story of his own independent observations.

The volume, divided into thirty chapters, treats of the Tarim River, the remarkable lakes beside the lower Tarim, the Cherchen Desert, and the Tarim delta. In other words, it deals with the Tarim system from Lailik to Abdal, together with the part of the great sandy desert situated between the lower part of the Tarim and the Cherchen-Daria. Dr. Hedin's description of the Tarim system is interrupted by an account of the desert of Cherchen, in order to enter upon a discussion of the desert lakes of the Tarim immediately after describing that river, the two subjects being inseparably connected. The general view of the Tarim system is therefore postponed to the second volume.

The book is profusely illustrated. Most of the autotypes, which predominate, are particularly clear and beautiful, and are reproduced from Dr. Hedin's own photographs. There are also many of his excellent drawings, which help the text, besides 39 lithographic plates, 17 maps, and 95 vertical sections or profiles through the Tarim and its tributaries, showing their depth, breadth, and velocity.

The volume deals exclusively with the country and not with the people, but there are many groups of natives among the illustrations. Among the most conspicuous and interesting features are the description and the plates given to the numerous elongated and, in part, parallel lakes lying close to one another on the right bank of the Tarim—all of them fed by small channels from the river; and the letterpress and plates illustrating the gigantic ridges of sand which stretch diagonally across almost the entire Desert of Cherchen to the Cherchen-Daria. The sand, says Dr. Hedin, is arranged in waves, presenting the same appearance as the waves of an ocean across which a hard and steady wind is blowing. These and other physical problems, which Dr. Hedin treats at length, enhance the great interest of the volume, and supply some novel data for the consideration of physical geographers.

Present-Day Japan. By Augusta M. Campbell. x and 331 pp., 75 illustrations, and index. J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia, 1904.

The author lived for some time in Japan, travelled much without dependence upon guide or interpreter, stopped at native inns, and improved many opportunities to study the inner life of the people. Her book is, therefore, not a record of first impressions,

but of those received after some familiarity with the country and its inhabitants. If the author had not mentioned in her preface that letters to her friends formed the groundwork of her book, the fact would not have been perceived; for the matter is solid, though lighted with humour, and arranged with a view to continuity in the treatment of the various topics. This extract from a description of factory girls in some silk-reeling works is a fair example from these entertaining pages:

Little creatures they were, all tidy and clean in their cotton kimonos of grey or blue, their hair tied up in the inevitable handkerchief, their little hands white and boiled-looking, as they kept plunging them into the hot water for cocoons. They sit thus all through the long monotonous day—I believe fourteen hours are not unusual—yet they seemed perfectly cheerful and contented, smiling and chatting, each quietly with her neighbor, hardly looking up, even at the intruding foreigners. No clattering in this mill beyond what was made by the machinery. No dirt; no loud voices raised, either in merriment or in quarrelling. I think few things strike one more in this country than the contrast between its mill hands and ours. I do not mean to suggest that Japanese mill hands are models in every respect, or even remarkable for docility. . . . All I mean is that they are more agreeable in their manners.

Special chapters are given to the Shinto faith, still the State religion, and to the sects and rites of Buddhism, which have greatly modified the national faith, and both creeds now flourish side by side with modern agnosticism. The ways and means of travelling, the drama, the shops and factories, the most notable art products, and the characteristics of the chief cities are, among other topics, presented in a most interesting and informing manner.

Thirty Years in Madagascar. By the Rev. T. T. Matthews. (Second Edition.) 384 pp., 62 illustrations from photographs and sketches, a map, and index. The Religious Tract Society, London, 1904.

Most of the material for Mr. Matthews's valuable work is based upon his own studies of the island and the Malagasy as a missionary of the London Missionary Society. Beyond a very brief description of the island the book is not geographical; but it is perhaps the best account yet given of the progress of missionary work in Madagascar, and of the influences for good or for evil which Christian missions and other foreign agencies have exerted upon the development of the people. The author says that under French rule everything has been changed, some of the changes being decidedly beneficial and others not so. He thinks the machinery of government is unnecessarily complex:

First of all is the civil administration, divided into sixteen or eighteen departments, including public works, mines, education, exchequer, landed estates, forests, agriculture, police, topography, taxation, post and telegraph, etc. There are numer-